



Possessing a many-sided talent (actor, mimic, stage-writer, but also an original screenwriter and film director) Gheorghe Lăzărescu (1897-1964) imposed himself in the history of art as a painter and especially as an exponent of portraiture. His series of portraits entitled "The Last Old People of Bucovina" will always feature as a remarkable page of Romanian painting. "The Ancestor", "The Custom Guard", "The Old Man, Chilling", "The Peasant Woman from Sălăjești", "Bridging a Cuckold", with the Master Grigore Gheorghiu and many others, adding to which is another gallery of Fred Holders, "Peasant Woman, Peasant of Bucovina, Transylvania or Banat", make an incredibly authentic ethnographic image of a whole history. Lăzărescu was equally interested in monuments of local medieval art (Colțești, Dragomirna, Curta Hunedoarului, Putna, Voroneț, Arbore), independent (Ghighișeni, Rereju More, Cheia, Crâmeni, Poiana Brăsăvălu) and houses (Gârnișoara, Nasăud, Iudei, Putna, Recaș).

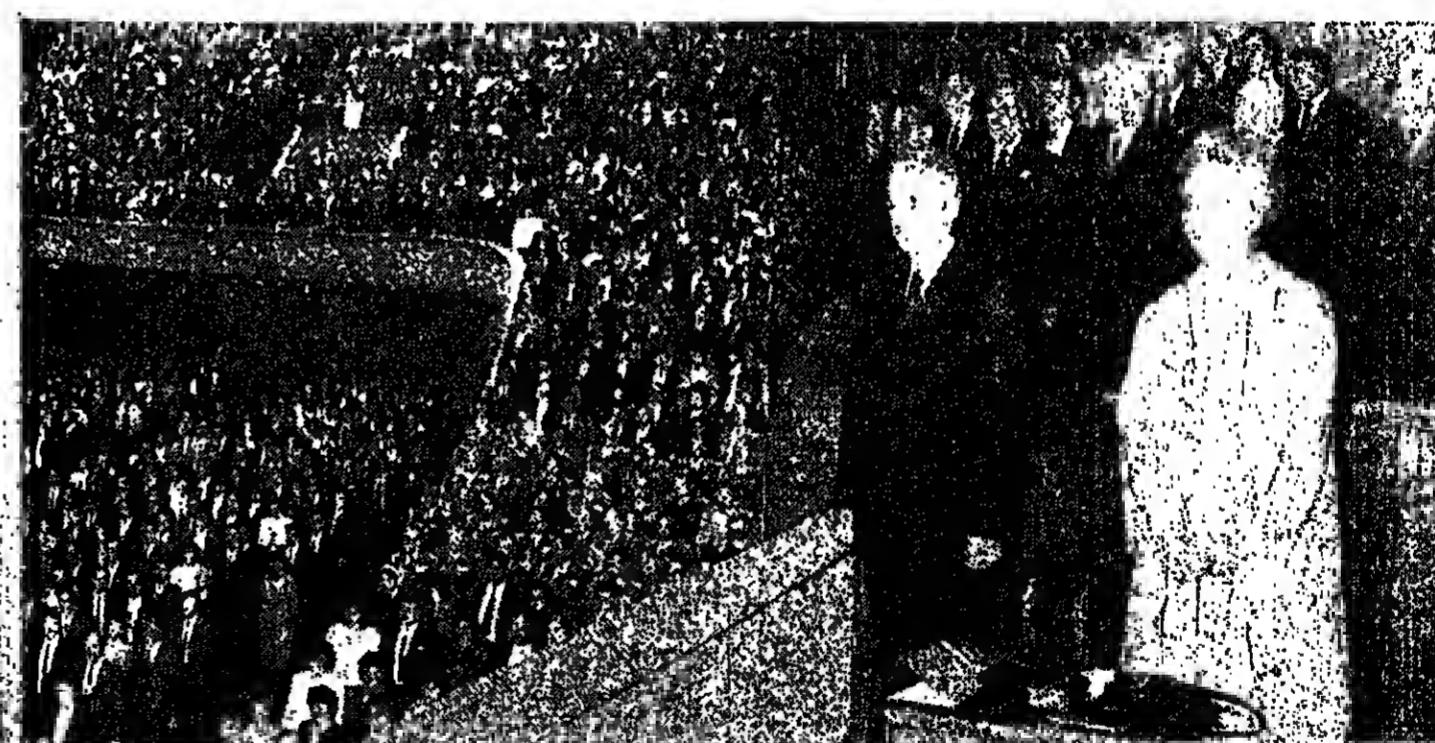
From the beginning critics pointed out Lăzărescu's second approach, especially in portrait painting, namely the psychological realism, liveliness, plasticity and richness of his models, their personality, and finally, the intellectual nature characteristic of peasant figures. We shall not mention any exegesis. However, in order to offer you a clue as to Lăzărescu's unique gift as a painter, we shall quote three personalities belonging to another field of creation. Thus, the great writer Ioan Sadoveanu (1868-1933) observed that "Lăzărescu has fixed these dear images of our soil for many centuries to come". In his turn, poet Adeljan Maniu (1891-1969) stressed that "Lăzărescu's portraits betray a totally unique man, tough and strong, intent, seemingly brass statues, coming long ago speech, so much akin to Dürer's altarpieces in point of expression, loons of the old Dacians, tormentors in grove called firs". Finally, essayist and sociologist Nelu Boles (1898-1964) considered that "Lăzărescu has landscapes in which two names rugged heights such as The Sphinx of Babeș, or figures of peasants from Bucovina, Maramureș and Transylvania, on whose faces, looking as if cast in bronze, you can feel the honesty of the Dacian descendants". PAUL ANTIM



ROMANIAN NEWS

INFORMATION AND
WEEKLY PUBLICATION
THE ROMANIAN
PEOPLES' DAILY

FRANCE:
ministère de l'Intérieur, Paris
17/04/56. Printed
under the direction
of the Press Department
18-10-1964
Bucharest



MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE POLITICAL COMMITTEE

A festive meeting took place in Bucharest on Saturday afternoon in the presence of President Nicolae Ceaușescu, marking May Day - International Workers' Day.

The meeting was addressed by Nicolae Constantini, member of the Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP.

The speaker stressed the outstanding importance of this celebration, which every time occasions in Romania the expression of the working class' unity and of its international solidarity. He also mentioned the success recorded by the Romanian people in the years of socialist construction, in the industrial development of its hamlets, in the achievements with which the working people all over the country welcomed May Day.

The speaker also referred to the dynamic period inaugurated by the Ninth Party Congress under the impulsion of Nicolae Ceaușescu's leading and revolutionary activity, a new, fresh, creative atmosphere.

It has permeated all areas of the work of building the socialist order. The whole problematic of socialist construction was reconsidered from now deep and fertile perspectives placed on the foundations of scientific rigor, old clichés which suffocated creative thinking, the narrow party spirit being rejected. Thus more harmony, more courage to the Romanian people, more big energies and socialism's great assets of progress were capitalized.

Also, the worker-revolutionary democracy system and the profoundly humanistic and scientific concept of building socialism, with the people and for the people, were elaborated and continuously applied and improved.

At the great May Day celebration, socialism presented itself as a dynamic country, in full progress with a modern industry, an advanced agriculture and a flourishing culture, registering important successes in all domains of the socioeconomic life.

In 1957 - the second year of the first

five-year period - new important achievements were scored in the socioeconomic development, in raising the country's general standard of life and civilization. In industry, the marketable output was grown by 15.5% through intensive development, while the largest current production in the country's history was obtained. Good results were also scored in other activity domains.

The speaker also referred to the principles underlying the Romanian party and state foreign policy of peace and collaboration, surveying Romania's actions for the continued development of the relations of friendship and collaboration with all socialist countries, for the expansion of the links with the developed capitalist states, with all countries of the world, irrespective of social systems.

A festive show took place at the close of the meeting.

YOUTH DAY

(PAGE 6)

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THE HARMONIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF ALL THE COUNTRY'S REGIONS

(PAGES 8-9)

ROMANIAN NEWS

ELEVENTH YEAR
18 (527)
MAY 6
1968
16 PAGES — 3 LEI

EXPOSITION BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE ROMANIAN COMMUNIST PARTY **NICOLAE CEAUȘESCU**

AT THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF THE CC OF THE RCP
ON QUESTIONS OF SOCIOECONOMIC MANAGEMENT,
IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICO-EDUCATIONAL WORK,
AND OF THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

Dear comrades,

Considering the activity of fulfilling the socio-economic development plans and programmes and some problems and issues in the international life, I think that we should briefly discuss these matters in the Executive Political Committee and on the basis of the conclusions we shall reach, we should prepare a broader debate in a plenary meeting of the Party's Central Committee.

All in all, we may say that the on-going activity for the implementation of the five-year

plan, of the programmes by branches and subbranches of the national economy has yielded results. In general — although a number of shortcomings are manifested in various sectors.

In consideration of all these, I believe that we should make a more thorough analysis of some questions of socio-economic management and planning so as to set the necessary measures for the improvement of our economic activity, in accordance with the resolutions of the 13th Congress and the National Conference of the Party. We must start

from the conclusion that the general line and development strategy are correct, meet the middle-class requirements, the general laws and the needs and possibilities of our homeland's development.

Generally speaking, the five-year plan and the programmes by branches and subbranches of science and technology of our socialist society, they also correspond to our people's possibilities and necessities for a steady rise in the civilization level, for the development of production forces, science, education, culture and growth of the people's material and cultural living stan-

dard. Despite all this, as I said, shortcomings and difficulties are manifested. In various sectors of activity, the achievements do not match the technical-material potential and the positive effects under party leadership.

This means that there are still serious shortcomings in the management and organization of activities. As a matter of fact, we already discussed about this at the latest plenary meeting of the Central Committee and in some executive Political

front, on p. 3

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE POLITICAL COMMITTEE

At the Meeting of the Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP on April 29, Nicolae Ceaușescu, General Secretary of the Party presented and Exposition we publish in this issue. The Executive Political Committee unanimously approved this Exposition, deciding that its orientations be published as bases of the future plenary meeting of the CC of the RCP and widely debated by party bodies and organizations, by the press.

(PAGE 2)

YOUTH DAY

(PAGE 6)

THE HARMONIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF ALL THE COUNTRY'S REGIONS

(PAGES 8-9)

May 2, Youth Day in the Socialist Republic of Romania. By virtue of a Decree, at the beginning of May this country celebrates its young generation and the young generation celebrates its day by specific activities and events meant to fulfill its duty to its homeland, to its people, to the cause of socialism, pride, its firm resolve to play full part in setting up a modern, advanced society, which the whole people, the coming generations may live a free and dignified life!"

Completing its educative mission, the Union of Communist Youth, the Federations of Communist Students' Associations and the Young Pioneers' Organization used political means of influence adequate to their age and profession to end of cultivating moral traits which should characterize every youth in communist Romania.

The youth's association as a strong socialist force, fully engaged in society's revolutionary changes from the point of view of the political needs of the nation or organization, as well as of the place and role it is called upon to hold in society, is the logical consequence of the prospect opened to the young generation in Romania. In Romania, the Romanian Communist Party's Programmatic of building the multi-dimensionally developed socialist society and Romania's advance in communism defines the youth as "a strong metal large, very intense, of our socialist nation", and attaches special importance to the bringing up and education of young people in the spirit of the norms and values promoted to our socialist society, of the advanced guidelines of the world socialist life, the professional and political training of young people so that the coming generation may take over more responsibility and commitment in the fulfillment of Romania's development plans.

Studying and working, working and studying, the majority of the students, the young people in plants, on the fields and building sites, in research institutions, the young majority are a generation aware of the responsibilities devolving on it, a generation whose ideal is that of developing all strengths in the implementation of the Party's policy of raising Romania onto new steps of progress and civilization. The work for Romania's development and advancement is not only a fundamental right which all creative people enjoy equally with all the country's citizens, but also an evident expression of the responsibility and full engagement in fulfilling all development plans and programs, the resolutions of the Thirteenth Congress and National Conference of the Party, over five million young people between 15 and 30 are engaged in this constructive work, whether they are still attending some form of educational or are performing a productive activity, over two million youths are working in industry. Their share in the overall workforce averages one-third. A large number of young people are employed in the advanced sectors of the economy; in electronics, their share is 6.35 per cent, in chemistry of 3.4 per cent. More than 100,000 young persons are working in investment building sites, and several other hundreds of thousands in agriculture. Over a quarter of the country's population is comprised in the educational process.

Facts of work of our days, when youths have been broadly opened the gates to instruction and assimilation in life, being continually enriched by the young generation, represents both a numerically important part of the country's population and an effective participant in the daily progress of work, in the country's socialist life. "I wish to stress with full satisfaction," said RCP General Secretary, "that in all areas of development scored in the years of socialist construction, the youth, alongside the entire people, has made a highly significant contribution to all fields of our economic and social activity. From the first documents of building a socialist society and Salva-Viata to the Uni-

versity of Bucharest, in all the industrial building sites, in the developing science and culture, the youth has been always present, answering the Party's call, fulfilling its duty to its homeland, to its people, to the cause of socialism, pride, its firm resolve to play full part in setting up a modern, advanced society, which the whole people, the coming generations may live a free and dignified life!"

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Two founders inclined the gigantic ladle with the help of a wheel towards the mouth of the mould and the stream of melted oil started pouring.

It was 11:30 h, Thursday, April 7,

The propeller and heat treatment shipping factory of Galati started casting the largest Romanian propeller, weighing 51 tons having four blades and a diameter of 6,700 mm, meant for the biggest ship built so far in Romania, the 165,000 dwt bulk carrier still sheltered by the Constanta shipyard.

It is ten years since the factory was established. Its very existence is a great achievement since ship propellers are most exacting industrial products — are manufactured by some barely 10 firms in the world.

The first ladle was emptied. The second headed for the mould. The crane took it from the big furnace to the casting place.

It was 12:25 h and the casting was over. The biggest



INDUSTRIAL EVENT

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propeller ever cast in this country acquired shape.

Engineer Gabriel Ena, head of the non-ferrous casting section, said: "The casting is twice as difficult as that involving the casting of the propeller. Casting water circulates through the induction, covering the big furnace. People who are experienced in screw casting say that it just one grain of dust drops in the induction causing an explosion that can turn into a point of penetration. In that case the melted metal reaches the induction, melts it and comes into contact with water which splits into oxygen and hydrogen — a very explosive mixture."

"Are you still working?"

"I was, until a few moments ago. See those people (the casting hall had got inundated with workers arriving from every corner of the factory, from various parts of the enterprise) ? They came to help us. It was a great achievement!"

"It couldn't be otherwise,"

"You are right, after all, we have been manufacturing ship-screws for so many years. Everyone held their breath when it came to the charge. While the

mould was being prepared, we turned and baked also the box of the 30-t-heavy furnace, the largest induction oven with four electrodes, and I said: 'Just that the situation is twice as difficult as that involving the casting of the propeller. Casting water circulates through the induction, covering the big furnace. People who are experienced in screw casting say that it just one grain of dust drops in the induction causing an explosion that can turn into a point of penetration. In that case the melted metal reaches the induction, melts it and comes into contact with water which splits into oxygen and hydrogen — a very explosive mixture.'

"The stamping operation was performed last Sunday, early in the morning; on Tuesday night we made the test, and it worked! The stamping had been done successfully."

"You are one of the best Romanian specialists in ship-screws, why are you so absorbed about it?"

"A ship-screw is one of the most complicated cast parts because it has everything in iron and steel: worker can dream of a thermal load, variable sections, large surfaces, determinants at low temperatures. That is why every exercise means a good deal in us."

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GRIGORE NICULAE ■

QUALITY AWARDS

At the last edition of the INCHEA '57 International Fair, held by Bratislava, the Romanian Nivea cosmetics enterprise was awarded a gold medal for a new creation, the BP series.

In one of the numerous awards won by the ranges of products made at the Bratovs enterprise, an international fair and exhibition.

Last year, Nivea offered the domestic and foreign market over 250 such products. Lately, the enterprise has released new dead-end shaving brushes, skin powder, face and nail polish, soap etc. Thus, the Soh range with colour paint and tonic with vitamin A, have been assimilated. Children were not neglected either. The ABC range has been assimilated for them, including powder, toothpaste and soap, all of them containing plant extracts.

The enterprise uses in fabricating extracts of aromatic and medicinal plants. The plant occupies by an over 250 ha plot, where mint, lavender, garden sage, chamomile, chrysanthemum, safflower, etc. are grown.

Nivea also makes so-called industrial cosmetics, sprays for cleaning wind screens, for greasing, for cooling channels. The latest news is the spray for the ignition of Diesel engines at low temperatures.

Therefore, a great variety of

products in permanent renovation. As compared to 1956, the share of new and modernized products is 55 percent. At the end of 1958 it will reach about 60 percent.

"And this is quite natural", said engineer Maria Segărceanu. The field in which we work calls for such an attitude; otherwise, it would be impossible to live up to the prestige we have acquired, for conditions of work in the same domain.

It is a very flexible parameter in point of novelty, each new product can mean a new market. The research-design department for individual forms also contributed to the success of one product or another. On the other hand,

a complex of measuring and interlocking devices instruments have been devised for testing possible deficiencies in the quality standards of products and for the final quality control.

C. MARIAN ■

Ship propeller manufactured at the Galati enterprise and displayed at the National Economic Achievements in Bucharest (top right); Pictures taken at the Galati Shipyard where many of the ships fitted with Romanian propellers are built (centre and bottom right).

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THE HARMONIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF ALL THE COUNTRY'S REGIONS LIKE A CENTURY-OLD TREE

So as not to forget who they were and how they started, the inhabitants of Păltin commune, in the ancient land of Vrancea, stepped into the future by setting up a museum.

The well-known masters of the commune, Nicolae Stoica, Ion Cintaceo, Ion Văscău and Hristea Macănu raised a large and beautiful house of wood on a stone socle, with carved balcony and pillars, with a whale-hip shingle-roof, with four spacious rooms. A house such as never had existed before.

Gathered and classified rigorously, dated and displayed willingly and tastefully in its rooms were objects donated by almost every family in the commune: folk costumes, carpets, leather goods, pipes, long shepherd's pipes, vessels made of wood and ceramics, centurymade pieces of furniture, tools of all kinds. The exhibits would have been worthy of any museum in Romania. However, the locals decided to keep them for themselves. Because it was only there that they could actually display their full scientific, cultural and, last but not least, affective value. Precious evidence of the history, costumes and traditions of a peasant community.

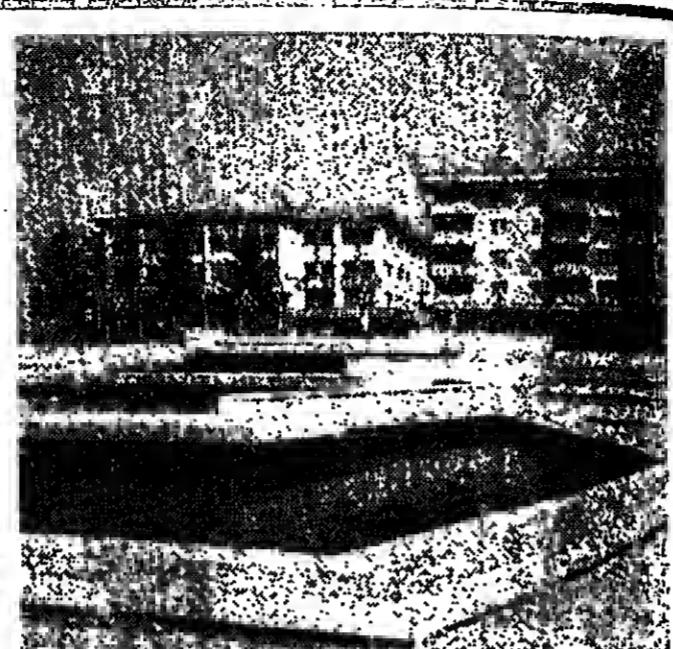
No one knows for sure who launched the initiative of setting up the original peasant museum. But

everyone contributed to its achievement. Like many other villages, at the beginning of the 1970s this peasant mountain settlement lying 70 km away from Focșani reached the turning point of its existence. The whole country had just got under the spell of deep economic and social changes. Vrancea county began to lay out its industrial areas. Attracted by the prospect of working and living in town, by the numerous advantages held out by urban civilization, more than one hundred people had left the commune for good. In only a couple of years the community decreased by 50 families.

On its impact with modern life with new occupations and living standards the old village inevitably began to disappear. The precious memories of the past, the orchard identity of the community had to be preserved for the generations to come.

Few communes in Romania can boast such a beautiful museum abounding in important exhibits as the museum of ethnography and art in Păltin.

But to the facets the house in which their past "lived" meant not only the rediscovery of their identity, but also a personal way of joining the civilized world.



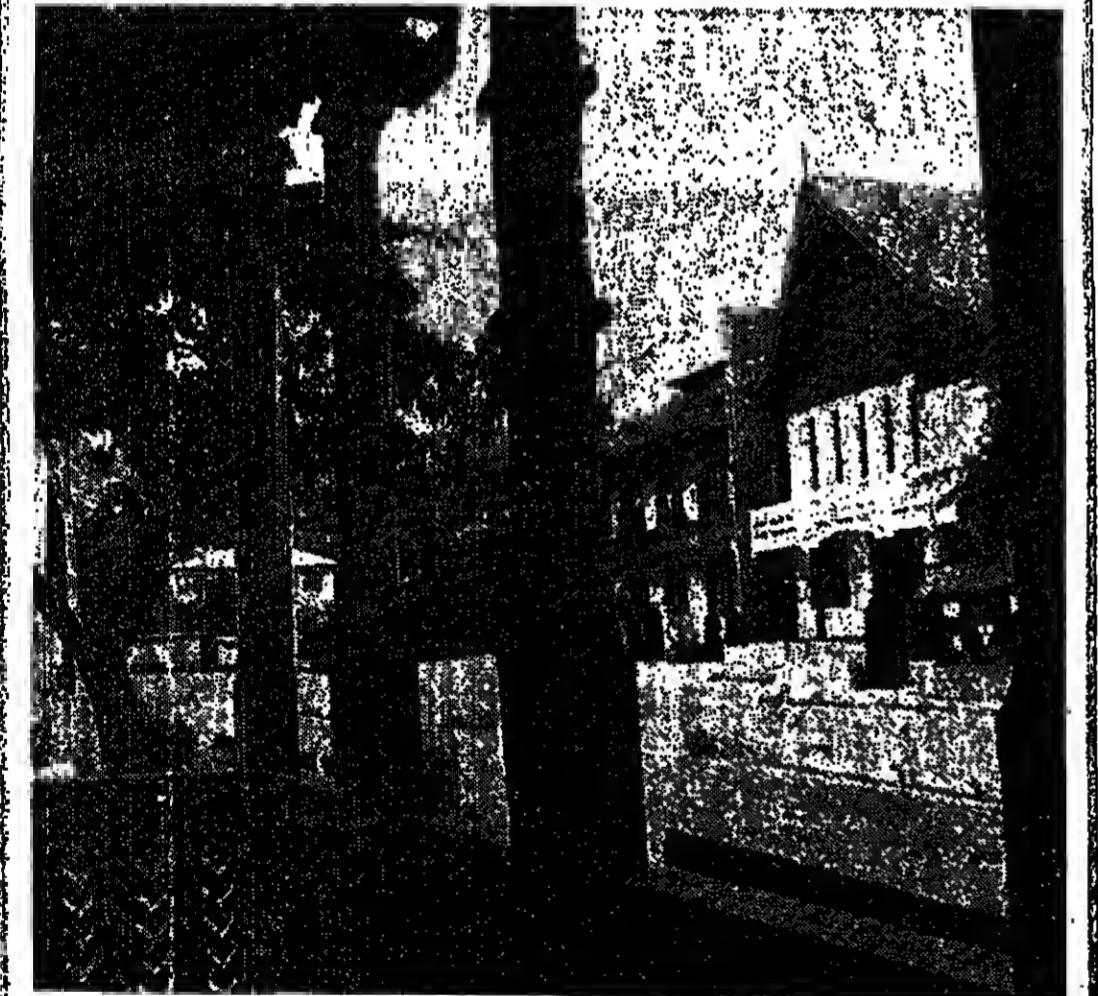
THE COMMUNE PUTS ON A NEW LOOK

Shortly afterwards the commune saw the emergence of a new, well-filled, administrative and cultural headquarters. A quadroco one-storeyed house with carved wooden balconies and pillars and a shingle roof, falling in line with the local traditional peasant architecture. A

house large enough to comprise the mayor's office, a house of culture, a library and a post office.

The people built a dispensary and a block with 11 flats for the doctors, professors, agronomists and intellectuals of the commune. In broad lines the

initial design was observed. But the local constructors did not make balconies out of reinforced bars but of squared wood and over the reinforced concrete floor of the building they placed a whale-hip roof covered with shingles, it matches both the local taste and the climate. Rio winters and abundant snows as they say, at Păltin winter is two-times longer than elsewhere — it snows two November (lit. May) two down easier on such a roof.



AN OLD TRADE COMES TO LIGHT

Who the Museum started to be built in Păltin, only a few men were still credited with the craftsmanship of wood-carving. But not even these people worked full-time. The trade was gradually waning. With modern civilization in place, no one showed any penchant for it any more. Forest exploitation and factory work gained ground. On top of it, some of the masters had even left the commune.

"The Jewels of carved wood displayed in the centre of Păltin helped revive a traditional craft, ensuring local masters the possibility of practicing it per-

manently. Now they receive orders from every corner of the country. Wherever they travel to Focșani, Păltin and Vâlcea — the ten woodcarvers and the two builders of Păltin regard their high apprenticeship. The best work is that of the woodcarver of the little houses which make up the ploncere camp of Găvănești. We should also mention that Păltin has also a workshop of manufacturers' vali,即vali boxes.

In ten years the Jews brought in by the state helped revive a traditional craft, ensuring local masters the possibility of practicing it per-

An important number of rural localities are undergoing a planning action, especially those localities hosting the seat of joint state and cooperativist agricultural councils which will become agroindustrial or industrial-agrarian small towns.

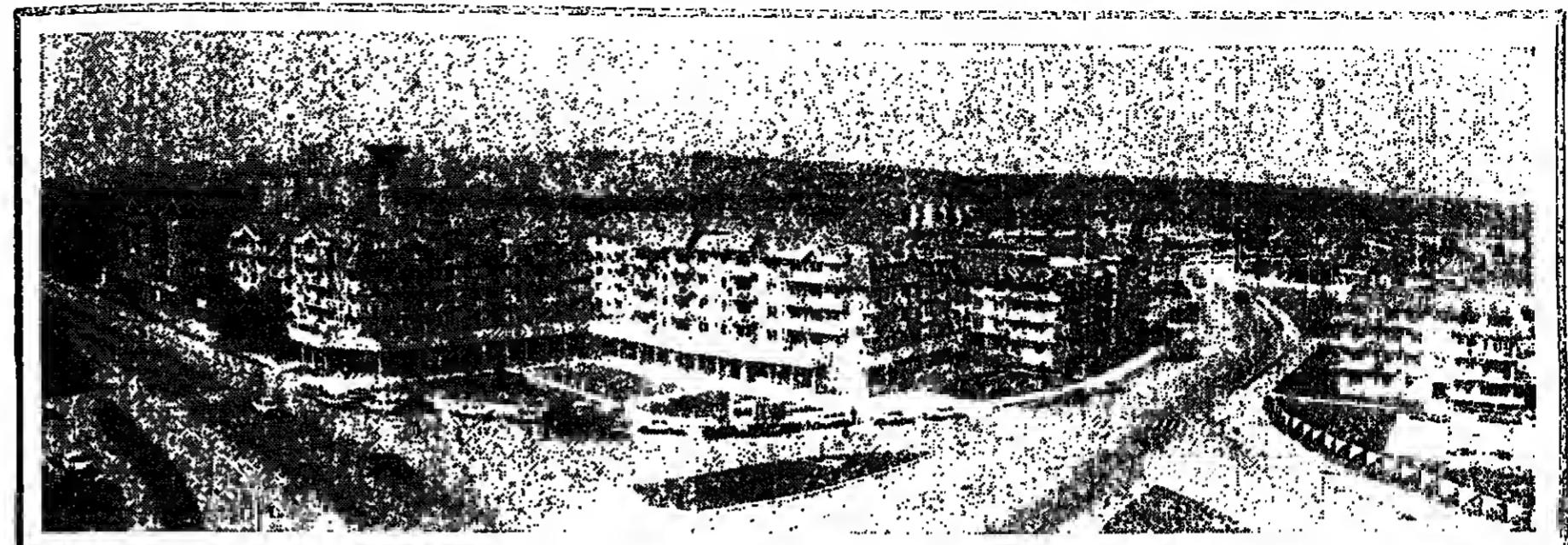
In those localities among which we mention Costești (Argeș county), Săsăuș (Bacău county), Peleș (Arad), Fântâna (Brăila), Plenița (Dolj), Podu Roșu (Ialomița), important investments were made and many modern and comfortable houses were built.

The rural population has:

- 12,000 general and high schools. For primary and gymnasium education there are corresponding school buildings in all communes and in many communes seats are specialized high schools and vocational schools.
- 10,000 kindergartens.
- 8,000 dispensaries, maternity houses, hospitals or sections of town hospitals.
- 1,800 houses of culture and 5,200 libraries.
- over 80,000 commercial units.

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THE FUTURE COMES ALONG THE MAIN STREET

Adding to them are the revenues obtained by tree-growing (the producer cooperative farm has 40 ha covered with plant trees and, in addition, Păltin has many maple and nut trees and natural growing which continues to be the main occupation of many local people). The commune has some 1,800 cattle and 8,000 sheep. Last year it supplied the state stock with 150 tons of meat and 800 hectolitres of milk.

Presently, Păltin possesses enough means to finance itself. Therefore it has the economic power to continue to materialize its ambitious development and village projects. These projects were presented to us by Stefan Ilie, who has been holding the office of mayor for six years.

This year drainage works in the residential centre of the commune will be concluded. Another block of flats will be

MIRCEA BOSCA ■

Significant progress has been made in planning of 38 rural localities making up Bîcărești's green belt. By rationally narrowing the building lot in order to give agriculture more land, communes have begun to expand vertically and change their look. Oltețeni, Suceava, Bragadiru, Cornel, 30 Decembrie and other communes belonging to the Ilfov Agricultural Sector are witnessing the rise of two-, three- and four-storeyed blocks of flats. The latter incorporating groundfloor shops and service units covering 17,500 sq.m. As parallel with the construction of new dwellings, drinking water, sewerage and heating pipes are being installed. The electric and road networks expanded, green areas, playgrounds, parks and squares laid out.

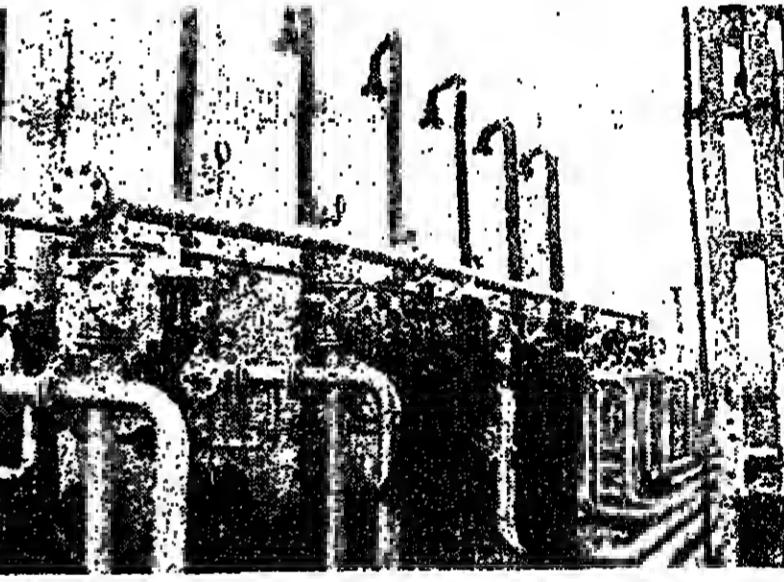
In the near future the communes will have new centres with political and administrative headquarters, matching their new towns, modern cultural establishments, schools and sanitary units.



The young mayor Iosif Ivan informed me that the value of the marketable output produced at Iancu and delivered to the country or for export stood at 711 million lei. The ex-worker told the driver to drive the "city" of Iancu, a name of the Baragan Plain, was a novelty a quarter of a century ago, which amazed even the specialists. In the meantime many peasants in that region donned the oil workers' blue overalls, and a multitude of them, carrying sledgehammers, as it is known by a saying, went straight to the bookshop with its wild windows, opened on the ground floor of one of the new blocks. They were starting off the year with books on algebra. The bookshop was recently inaugurated with the launching of a new book. In the presence of its author. As everywhere in Romania, books are in great demand here. This is another sign that a new world is being established at Iancu, and that tomorrow's town has come fully into its own.

At present in villages there are over 29,000 medical staff among whom 11,000 physicians and hundreds of thousand teaching staff, agronomists, technicians for agriculture and zoology.

The new centre of Păltin commune, Vrancea county (left); Modern architecture at Găvănești, Suceava county (top); Urban-type renewal in Tătărăști, Argeș; Brăila, capital (right). On page 9: A new residential district in Bacău commune, Argeș county (top); In the industrial area of the future town of Iancu (right); Present customs and folkloric traditions in Vrancea county (bottom).



residents, more than 3,000 of whom are studying to secure tomorrow's working echelons and the future town's youth.

Next, I was shown the tool factories on the opposite side of the road. The sugar factory is the country's second largest, covering the annual needs of one million people. The modern factory is built in the raw materials nearby at the Argeș Brăila farms and the complex of the Poultry Breeding Inter-

cooperative Economic Association.

Before arriving in the main street, in the small centre of the locality which has only just been transposed from the architects' drawing boards into reality, I passed by the "campus" of the two local schools, elementary and middle school, and agricultural. It was noon and the centre was invaded by children carrying sledgehammers. On the bricklaying classes, as it is known by a saying, they went straight to the bookshop with its wild windows, opened on the ground floor of one of the new blocks. They were starting off the year with books on algebra. The bookshop was recently inaugurated with the launching of a new book. In the presence of its author. As everywhere in Romania, books are in great demand here. This is another sign that a new world is being established at Iancu, and that tomorrow's town has come fully into its own.

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